Date: Fri, 1 Oct 93 19:15:16 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1163
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Fri, 1 Oct 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1163

Today's Topics:

 Codeless Whatevers
 Crystal Oscillator
 Does any one have 2m crystals?
 eliminating RFI from hf rig to PC
 first sos in history
 humorous R.S. anecdote
 Is there better src of AX.25 spec than ARRL doc?
 Kenwood TS-950SD customer satisfaction
 Motorola ad in QST? (2 msgs)
 ORBS$275.2liners
 SCA - Subcarrier on FM Broadcast
 Yupiteru 7100 Review in Oct MT

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1993 20:14:44 GMT
From: swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!math.ohio-state.edu!pacific.mps.ohio-state.edu!linac!
uchinews!att-out!cbfsb!cbnews!cbnewst!cbnewsm!jeffj@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Codeless Whatevers
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <28ckqiINNm6h@emx.cc.utexas.edu> oo7@emx.cc.utexas.edu (Derek Wills)
writes:
>mraz@maverick.aud.alcatel.com (Kris Mraz AA5UO)
>innocently (or not...), but politely, enquires:
>

>>>Can anyone pinpoint the date in amateur radio history when Morse code
>>>became irrelevant? To the nearest year would be good enough. Thanks.
>
>This one should run and run...

I'll bite, no date as it's still relevant which is more then you can
say for posts like this.

Jeff

--
 Jeff Jones AB6MB | OPPOSE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT!
 jeffj@seeker.mystic.com | Canada/USA Free Trade cost Canada 400,000 jobs.
 Infolinc BBS 510-778-5929 | Want to guess how many we'll lose to Mexico?

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1993 14:31:33 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!pipex!uknet!doc.ic.ac.uk!syma!
mpfb8@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Crystal Oscillator
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have a crsytal oscillator made simply using 2 TTL invertor gates with
a 5-65pf capacitor in series with the 4.3 MHz crystal. This capacitor
pulls the 4.3MHz crystal down a few tens of kHz but I need to shift it
UP a few kHz. After some discussion, I wonder if it is, in fact,
possible TO shift it up.

If anyone has any thought or ideas on circuit to do so, I would
appreciate any info either mailed direct or via here.

Many thanks...Peter.

Date: Fri, 1 Oct 1993 00:20:32 GMT
From: swrinde!elroy.jpl.nasa.gov!usc!sol.ctr.columbia.edu!news.kei.com!
news.oc.com!merlin.etsu.edu!gumaer@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Does any one have 2m crystals?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi All!

 I was wondering if anyone has 2m crystals for the Kenwood TR-2200A?
 We are a poor club and we need 145.070 for both receive and tr.
 Any donations would be very helpful, but if you need a price,
 please E-Mail me and offer me a fair price.

Thank you all for your time. 73, Mark

--

Mark Gumaer (KA5YUV) | Vice-President-Elect Radio East Texas State University
gumaer@merlin.etsu.edu| Editor Radio E.T.S.U. Newsletter
 |Phone (903) 886-2084 (on weekdays)
 | (903) 356-2253 (on weekends)
 |FAX (903) 886-2084
 |Ham Radio 146.78 or 147.02 Mhz

AKA: Don Begal in Duelmasters, Jurine DM61
 Goomar in Adventures Guild, Antar

Date: 30 Sep 1993 15:08:45 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!
news.dtc.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!hpubmaa.esr.hp.com!garhow@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: eliminating RFI from hf rig to PC
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I have the opposite problem from one previously discussed. I am getting
lots of RF into the PC. When I key the transmitter the monitor display
stretches vertically about 1". I tried keying the transmitter with
a CW program on the PC but there was so much RF getting to the PC it
caused it to go bananas. I used to do this a few years ago with a different
computer and never had this problem (same rig). Any suggestions?

Thanks
Garry KE0SH

--
Garry Howard Hewlett-Packard Company
Technical Consultant 29 Burlington Mall Road
Professional Services Organization Burlington, MA 01803 USA
garhow@hpubmaa.esr.hp.com

[I do not speak for HP officially or otherwise.]

Date: 1 Oct 93 23:06:23 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!math.ohio-state.edu!magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu!
usenet.ins.cwru.edu!cleveland.Freenet.Edu!aa813@network.ucsd.edu

Subject: first sos in history
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In a previous article, woods@glas.rtsg.mot.COM (Simon Woodworth) says:

>From: super!weh@uunet.uu.net
>
>>A trivial question that we would really appreciate some help on
>>is "what ship sent the first sos signal?
>
>I think it was the Titanic but I may be wrong here.
>
>>The second question that we would also really like to know is
>>what signal was used for distress before the sos signal.
>
>The letters CQD spring to mind, but again I'm not sure.
>
>Yours vaguely,
>Simon Woodworth.

The Titanic sent both CQD and SOS. Check out Walter Lord's "A Night to
Remember." Also check the British movie of the same name made in 1958.
The CW is accurate.

73, Joe N8IPC

Date: 1 Oct 93 20:40:50 GMT
From: ogicse!hp-cv!sdd.hp.com!col.hp.com!srgenprp!donrm@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: humorous R.S. anecdote
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Kevin Sanders (kevin@TorreyPinesCA.ncr.com) wrote:
> With the recent gripes about Radio Shack customer ID's, I thought I'd

A friend of mine gives his ID as Hiram P. Maxim, last four: 7388

Don, K6LTS
donrm@sr.hp.com

Date: 1 Oct 93 17:06:07 GMT
From: ogicse!uwm.edu!vixen.cso.uiuc.edu!newsrelay.iastate.edu!news.iastate.edu!
jvp@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Is there better src of AX.25 spec than ARRL doc?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In <50@coutts.UUCP> wwg@coutts.UUCP (Warren W. Gay VE3WWG) writes:

>I am wondering if there is a better source, or a complimentary source
>of information regarding AX.25 protocol. The ARRL "booklet" is ok
>for describing the basic ingredients, but it is sadly lacking the
>details necessary for someone to actually implement AX.25.

 The 7th ARRL Computer Networking Conference proceedings has SDL
for ax.25. It's got a couple of bugs in it as I recall, but it's
a great place to start.

--
+---+
| Jim Van Peursem - Dept of EE and CprE - Iowa State University |
| Ames, IA 50011 - internet: jvp@iastate or tools1.ee.iastate.edu |
+---+

Date: 1 Oct 93 19:09:41 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Kenwood TS-950SD customer satisfaction
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Back in December 1992 I submitted this letter to the Correspondence Section of
QST after reading the review of the TS-950SDX.

In the opening paragraph of the Kenwood TS-950SDX review (December 92 QST) Rus
Healy states " It had better be something really special, you're think,
otherwise Kenwood would have alot of explaining to do as why they released this
rig less than two years after its predecessor!"

Well, I am one of many Hams who bought a TS-950SD and would like to have an
explanation from Kenwood. Was the TS-950SD a field test or a marketing probe?
Were they working on the TS-950SDX and need to release a earlier version due to
competition?

Lets hope customer satisfaction and customer loyalty is still the most
important product a company like Kenwood could produce.

 ---end of letter to QST---

Let me know if you have any ideas on what I can do... Maybe getting a
list of all known TS-950SD owners on the net and all on the same day send a
letter to Kenwood complaining about this problem. If they get enough
letters in one week maybe they would notice!

Paul KW1L
Paul_Adler.NER-OSM@xerox.com

Date: 1 Oct 1993 09:12:33 CDT
From: ftpbox!mothost!schbbs!maccvm.corp.mot.com!CSLE87@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Motorola ad in QST?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

As just one of 100,000+ employees, I'm guessing that the issue is one
of SOFTWARE PIRACY, that is the modification of Motorola's copyrighted
computer code used in most new radios. Specifically, to add features
without paying for them and to extend the coverage beyond the design
limits of the unit. I think Scott was right on both his comments.

Karl Beckman, PE WA8NVW NNN0VBH/ASI7

------------------------ Original Article ------------------------
Newsgroups: rec.radio.amateur.misc
Path: schbbs!mothost!ftpbox!news.acns.nwu.edu!math.ohio-state.edu!howland.reston
From: rich@mulvey.com
Subject: Re: Motorola ad in QST?
References: <28f93b$s0f@cville-srv.wam.umd.edu>
Organization: Mulvey Home Node
Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1993 19:21:45 GMT
X-Newsreader: TIN [version 1.1 PL8]
Message-ID: <1993Sep30.192145.9801@mulvey.com>
Lines: 27

Scott Richard Rosenfeld (ham@wam.umd.edu) wrote:
: In article <1993Sep30.131145.1@uwovax.uwo.ca>, <ppddgc@uwovax.uwo.ca> wrote:
: >Did anyone else see the unusual (almost threatening implied) ad in this
: >month's QST from Motorola?
: >
: >The implications of this ad are distressing and I plan to make this known
: >to Motorola management. I hope other professionals do the same in their
: >area.

: Gee, that ad did seem "SERIOUS," didn't it? Wonder what industrial pirate
: nipped them lately?

: It seems that QST is an interesting place to run this ad, at the very
: least. Maybe they think that hams are involved with piracy -

: Or - note the last line - "Anyone who has knowledge of illegal activities...
: ...contact Motorola immediately at..." Seems that they're aiming at
: people who have their feet in the door of the communications world, asking

: them (I mean us) to keep our ears and eyes open for such an occurrence.

 Perhaps this is a clueless question... but exactly what sort of
illegal activities could they be refering to?

- Rich
--
Rich Mulvey Amateur Radio: N2VDS Rochester, NY
rich@mulvey.com "Ignorance should be painful."

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1993 17:11:45 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!torn!newshost.uwo.ca!
uwovax.uwo.ca!ppddgc@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Motorola ad in QST?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Did anyone else see the unusual (almost threatening implied) ad in this
month's QST from Motorola?

I hope that they plan to place these ads in other trade publications
such as the APCO journal and others geared to the two way radio business.
To publish an ad like this in ONLY amateur radio publications sends a
message that we are being singled out as software pirates.

BTW I am in charge of four Motorola repeaters and 130 mainly Motorola
radios here at the University of Western Ontario. All supported through
one of their Radius dealers.

The implications of this ad are distressing and I plan to make this known
to Motorola management. I hope other professionals do the same in their
area.

Date: 1 Oct 93 16:43:40 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: ORBS$275.2liners
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

SB KEPS @ AMSAT $ORBS-275.N
2Line Orbital Elements 275.AMSAT

HR AMSAT ORBITAL ELEMENTS FOR AMATEUR SATELLITES IN NASA FORMAT
FROM N3FKV HEWITT, TX October 2, 1993
BID: $ORBS-275.N

DECODE 2-LINE ELSETS WITH THE FOLLOWING KEY:
1 AAAAAU 00 0 0 BBBBB.BBBBBBBB .CCCCCCCC 00000-0 00000-0 0 DDDZ
2 AAAAA EEE.EEEE FFF.FFFF GGGGGGG HHH.HHHH III.IIII JJ.JJJJJJJJKKKKKZ
KEY: A-CATALOGNUM B-EPOCHTIME C-DECAY D-ELSETNUM E-INCLINATION F-RAAN
G-ECCENTRICITY H-ARGPERIGEE I-MNANOM J-MNMOTION K-ORBITNUM Z-CHECKSUM

TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

AO-10
1 14129U 83 58 B 93269.62632466 -.00000053 00000-0 99999-4 0 376
2 14129 27.3156 4.2989 6026531 117.2716 315.3887 2.05880833 77357
UO-11
1 14781U 84 21 B 93273.60110102 .00000181 00000-0 34679-4 0 4427
2 14781 97.8037 295.3091 0012843 24.5844 335.5972 14.69058828512194
RS-10/11
1 18129U 87 54 A 93274.02182318 .00000088 00000-0 89554-4 0 6544
2 18129 82.9289 160.4043 0012963 29.9551 330.2339 13.72323681314367
AO-13
1 19216U 88 51 B 93269.09187191 -.00000232 00000-0 65920-3 0 6457
2 19216 57.8473 292.7149 7211645 324.9411 4.2235 2.09727479 68444
FO-20
1 20480U 90 13 C 93262.12161713 -.00000010 00000-0 65198-5 0 4565
2 20480 99.0281 100.4732 0540198 233.7673 121.2342 12.83221116169367
AO-21
1 21087U 91 6 A 93271.63376897 .00000084 00000-0 82656-4 0 8605
2 21087 82.9460 336.2742 0036941 92.9638 267.5716 13.74525333133654
RS-12/13
1 21089U 91 7 A 93271.88921976 .00000014 00000-0 88052-5 0 4267
2 21089 82.9212 205.2035 0029589 113.4076 247.0196 13.74026739132768
ARSENE
1 22654U 93031B 93253.49977207 -.00000056 00000-0 10000-3 0 236
2 22654 1.2946 120.3715 2933550 152.0186 99.4287 1.42203372 1781
UO-14
1 20437U 90005B 93273.74402670 .00000039 00000-0 22866-4 0 7767
2 20437 98.6085 356.8274 0010315 231.2276 128.7984 14.29793569192514
AO-16
1 20439U 90005D 93273.73976057 .00000032 00000-0 20232-4 0 5815
2 20439 98.6151 357.7986 0010489 232.0276 127.9958 14.29851668192529
DO-17
1 20440U 90005E 93273.71916563 .00000023 00000-0 16758-4 0 5831
2 20440 98.6160 358.0199 0010677 231.7721 128.2500 14.29988043192537
WO-18
1 20441U 90005F 93273.83012265 .00000031 00000-0 19837-4 0 5842
2 20441 98.6150 358.1481 0011162 231.6967 128.3213 14.29967002192559
LO-19
1 20442U 90005G 93273.75535182 .00000045 00000-0 25152-4 0 5811
2 20442 98.6159 358.2718 0011457 231.7620 128.2531 14.30058435192552
UO-22

```
1 21575U 91050B   93273.74550175  .00000092  00000-0  37922-4 0  2804
2 21575  98.4631 348.1156 0007889 352.8348   7.2724 14.36853144115824
KO-23
1 22077U 92 52  B 93263.67655469  .00000000  00000-0  99999-4 0  1156
2 22077  66.0792 124.2611 0001255 353.3278   6.7724 12.86279630 52121
AO-27
1 22825U 93061C   93274.12386161 -.00000103  00000-0 -33906-4 0    50
2 22825  98.6809 347.1732 0007375 241.9084 118.1352 14.27580958   727
IO-26
1 22826U 93 61  D 93272.86199979  .00000655  00000-0  28195-3 0    41
2 22826  98.6803 345.9208 0007952 245.7224 114.3082 14.27684427   538
KO-25
1 22827U 93061E   93274.12314011  .00000317  00000-0  14435-3 0    24
2 22827  98.6789 347.1689 0008256 229.1961 130.8504 14.27785690   728
PO-28
1 22829U 93 61  G 93272.52017860  .00002889  00000-0  11885-2 0    65
2 22829  98.6060 345.6230 0034766 196.6232 211.5064 14.27308199   498
NOAA-9
1 15427U 84123  A 93270.64371502  .00000096  00000-0  61218-4 0  4662
2 15427  99.0908 312.5447 0014265 238.9646 121.0126 14.13548181453256
NOAA-10
1 16969U 86 73  A 93273.05454252  .00000041  00000-0  25373-4 0  3102
2 16969  98.5172 284.9563 0014001  12.2442 347.9080 14.24833054365552
NOAA-11
1 19531U 88 89  A 93270.92231825  .00000073  00000-0  50010-4 0  2213
2 19531  99.1447 248.8132 0012208 146.2203 213.9754 14.12918124258182
MET-3/3
1 20305U 89086A   93273.86875201  .00000043  00000-0  10000-3 0  7395
2 20305  82.5458  90.3189 0014966 211.3850 148.6353 13.16023150189000
FY-1/2
1 20788U 90081A   93273.93341747  .00000177  00000-0  13993-3 0  6344
2 20788  98.8529 297.1371 0015867  19.0735 341.1022 14.01299199157382
MET-2/20
1 20826U 90086A   93273.83481420  .00000047  00000-0  36873-4 0  5869
2 20826  82.5293 352.3318 0014876  56.8293 303.4292 13.83559207151893
MET-3/4
1 21232U 91 30  A 93273.09340954  .00000043  00000-0  99999-4 0  4060
2 21232  82.5472 353.4800 0014452 113.4554 246.8089 13.16456469117126
NOAA-12
1 21263U 91 32  A 93271.08767618  .00000129  00000-0  66412-4 0  6772
2 21263  98.6498 299.2850 0012033 277.9887  81.9937 14.22313745123276
MET-3/5
1 21655U 91056A   93274.04083301  .00000043  00000-0  10000-3 0  4631
2 21655  82.5537 299.7610 0014526 119.9853 240.2720 13.16823685102349
MET-2/21
1 22782U 93 55  A 93272.04890292  .00000009  00000-0  26230-5 0   178
2 22782  82.5458  53.3688 0020914 237.8672 122.0460 13.82985484  3997
MIR
```

```
1 16609U 86017  A 93273.55553133  .00007726  00000-0  93742-4 0  3285
2 16609 051.6206 050.0286 0004335 158.3682 201.8178 15.59935938435560
HUBBLE
1 20580U 90037B   93273.92510529  .00000677  00000-0  56578-4 0  1965
2 20580  28.4692 102.7442 0004582  75.3996 284.7099 14.92845272187320
GRO
1 21225U 91 27  B 93274.05553739  .00032256  00000-0  18468-3 0    26
2 21225  28.4609 243.2107 0006141  87.0457 273.0958 15.77261674 16811
UARS
1 21701U 91063B   93273.96827791  .00003301  00000-0  31171-3 0  2573
2 21701  56.9841 117.6286 0004646  96.4517 263.7045 14.96165173112137
/EX
-------

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Date: Fri, 1 Oct 1993 19:01:03 +0000
From: news!demon!cix.compulink.co.uk!dplumb@uunet.uu.net
Subject: SCA - Subcarrier on FM Broadcast
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

A while back I had two files called SCA1 and SCA2 which contained details
about SCA (suprisingly), you know, where you have a low subcarrier on a
broadcast FM signal that contains additional information.

If anyone knows where this file is or could mail it to me, I'd be eternally
grateful. I deleted mine when told by a broadcast engineer we don't use them
in the UK, but now I find they do exist...

The files were probably called SCA-1.TXT and SCA-2.TXT. An FTP address would
suffice if anyone knows where!

Many thanks!

Dave Plumb G7MIL

------------------------------

Date: Thu, 30 Sep 1993 17:33:54 GMT
From: cs.utexas.edu!convex!horak@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Yupiteru 7100 Review in Oct MT
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

The October Monitoring Times has a review of the new Yupiteru MVT-7100
wideband scanner.  The review is by Bob Grove on page 93.  These units
scan from 100 KHz to 1.65 GHz (NFM/WFM/AM/SSB) without gaps.  Bob
really likes his new little toy and takes it with him wherever he
goes.  It does look like a nice unit but costs $599, purchased from
```

Javiation in England.

David

Date: 30 Sep 93 15:18:34 GMT
From: auratek!epacyna@uunet.uu.net
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <9309201526.AA20067@ucsd.edu>, <27prbiINN51k@altair.cs.unc.edu>,
<28d7gn$9f@safety.ics.uci.edu>c
Subject : Re: New HF Rig

In article <28d7gn$9f@safety.ics.uci.edu>, turner@safety.ics.uci.edu (Clark Savage
Turner) writes:
>
> Anyway, I do not find Ten Tec lacking in quality (design is not something
> I can judge at a high level, but I am a demanding user!) in any
> respect at all. The Japanese rigs are pretty neat, and I like them, too,
> but I do NOT find them to be better in basic performance. (IF auto
> tuners, built in power supplies are important, well.....Ten Tec doesn't
> do it).
>
> Just my opinion.
>
> Clark
> WA3JPG

Clark

I wasn't referring to bells and whistles. Take for example the Argonaut series.

In the 500 series they left a lot to be desired. Open one up. The PCB quality,
board suffing and sodering reminds me of someones first Heatkit project. The
use of plasic cabinets, dial string drives, phono plug antenna connectors etc.
was not representative of what $400 would get you back then.

Date: (null)
From: (null)
Updating a bit, how good is the new Argonaut II? Look at the product reviews
in the QRP Quarterly and QST.

73

Ed W1AAZ

Date: 30 Sep 1993 13:49:45 -0500
From: nmt.edu!mimbres.cs.unm.edu!ncar!gatech!howland.reston.ans.net!usc!
cs.utexas.edu!TAMUTS.TAMU.EDU!news.utdallas.edu!corpgate!crchh327.bnr.ca!
dover@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <swood.749331809@vela.acs.oakland.edu>, <28errh$fqu@crchh583.bnr.ca>,
<28f1m0$me0@nigel.msen.com>u
Subject : Re: Stop hunter Harrassment in Michigan

In article <28f1m0$me0@nigel.msen.com>, vvolk@hcia.com (Victor R. Volkman) writes:
|> Robert Dover (dover@bnr.ca) wrote:
|>
|> : In article <swood.749331809@vela.acs.oakland.edu>, swood@vela.acs.oakland.edu
(Scott Wood) writes:
|> : |> Last year was the first test of the new Michigan Hunter Harrassement
|> : |> legislation. This year is bound to be frought with its share of activism.
|> : |>
|> : I moved to Dallas from Ann Arbor 5 yrs ago and hadn't heard about the
|> : "hunter harrassment".
|>
|> : What gives?
|>
|> Its mainly animal rights activists. I have never been a hunter, but I have
|> little tolerance for anyone who attempts to impair your civil liberties by
|> harrassing you. They have patterned their behavior after the way that
|> anti-abortion groups harass clinics.

Okay, that much was sort of clear. Not clear on what the legislation entails
(what is the crime, punishment, how is this enforced, etc.). For example,
is this dealing with harrassment at the license office or out in the fields?
I see little harm in the former but would consider that latter harrassment.

+------------------------------+--+
| Bob Dover | My opinions are just that and no more. |
+------------------------------+--+
| I live in Texas: where "gun control" means not needing a second shot. |
+------------------------------+--+

Date: 1 Oct 93 13:37:43 GMT
From: mnemosyne.cs.du.edu!nyx!lkollar@uunet.uu.net

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <pineappCE4G2t.F4K@netcom.com>, <CE6DLI.3J8@cbnewsm.cb.att.com>,
<CE6tK3.39H@odin.corp.sgi.com>
Subject : Re: Best way to learn code?

adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (Charles Adams) writes:

>so, back to the original question. Why does getting on the air work?
>Isn't because your neck is in the noose (so to speak) and you tend to
>concentrate on what you're doing? Listening to a computer isn't much
>incentive to concentrate.

I don't think the forced concentration is the whole picture here...

If you want to get good at tennis, what do you do? Go to the court and start hitting balls, of course. If you don't have someone to play with, you use the nearest brick/concrete wall (that's what I did). If you need to improve your golf swing, you go to the driving range. I type 90-100 wpm because I'm at a keyboard almost every day.

Concentration is helpful, but the key (pun not intended) is PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE. However, Charles makes a good point... back to the tennis analogy, hitting tennis balls against the wall is useful up to a point -- but eventually you need a live player on the other side of a net. Computers & code tapes are good up to a point -- but eventually you need to get on the air and make some QSOs. It's still practicing, though. (Why do doctors call it "practicing medicine?" Makes me nervous sometimes.)

Charles also raised a good question (deleted): why are people afraid to get on the air? Stage fright/mike fright/key fright is a real problem for some people. However, the Novice sub-bands are there for just that reason. Newbies can work each other, and many experienced hams cruise the Novice bands willing to help (and probably trolling for "U R FIRST QSO" :-).

I spend nearly all my CW time in the 15m Novice segment, cruising down into the General CW segment when I can't find anyone else to work. Sunspots or no, it's almost always open to 6-land and I can usually count on a surprise or two.
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Larry Kollar, KC4WZK | I like CW, but that doesn't mean I think every ham
lkollar@nyx.cs.du.edu | should have to learn it.
 "You mean you came back from the dead, to tell me I'm *odd*?"

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1163
